

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 128526

P 061122 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8674

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2825

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO FROM CHARGE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, PK, IR

SUBJ: DEPSEC VISIT TO PAKISTAN: GOP PRESS RELEASE; SUGGESTED
SCHEDULE

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 2824, (B) ISLAMABAD 2756, (C) STATE 63493

1. CHARGE TELEPHONED MFA DIRGEN FOR AMERICAS ZAKI MORNING APRIL 6 TO EXPRESS SURPRISE AND UNHAPPINESS OVER ITEM APPEARING MORNING PRESS, ANNOUNCING DATES FOR DEPSEC VISIT AND PROPOSED PROGRAM (REF (A)). REMINDED ZAKI THAT WE HAD WANTED TO CONTROL PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND THAT WE HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED WE NOT YET IN POSITION OFFICIALLY TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SCHEDULE. ZAKI SAID THAT MFA HAD DECIDED, IN VIEW OF REPORTS OF DEPSEC TRAVEL WHICH HAD APPEARED IN PRESS APRIL 6 (REF (B)), THAT STATEMENT SHOULD BE ISSUED AT WEEKLY MFA PRESS BRIEFING THAT DAY IN ANTICIPATION OF PRESS QUERIES. ZAKI APOLOGIZED FOR ISSUING STATEMENT WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY AND SAID HE HOPED THIS WOULD NOT CREATE ANY DIFFICULTIES. CHARGE SAID HE TOO HOPED IT WOULD NOT CAUSE ANY DIFFICULTIES BUT HE WAS SORRY IT HAD HAPPENED.

2. AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL SAEED AND ZAKI AT MFA, CHARGE CONVEYED PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR
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DEPSEC VISIT (REF (C)). THEY SAID THEY WOULD CONSULT WITH PRESIDENT' S OFFICE AND BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH US ASAP. ZAKI AGAIN APOLOGIZED FOR INDISCRETION IN RELEASING PUBLIC STATEMENT AND SAID NOTHING MORE WOULD BE ISSUED UNLESS WE WISHED IT.

3. MFA REPS SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED DESIRE OF RUSHES AND SISCOS TO STAY AT AMBASSADOR' S RESIDENCE RATHER THAN AT INTERCONTINENTAL. THEY ACCEPTED EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR GOP' S OFFER.

4. WILL INFORM AS SOON AS WE HAVE GOP' S REACTION TO SUGGESTED SCHEDULE.
SOBER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS, EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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